

II. Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 12-14, 18-20, 23-26, 28-30, 34-36, 40-42, 45-48, 50, 51, 53-56, 58-60, 63-66, 68-70, 72, 74, 75, 84, 85, 91-94, 96, 97, 101, 102 and 105-149 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 23, 45, 53, 63, 84, 91, 105, 110, 115, 117, 122, 127, 133, 139 and 145 are independent. Applicants gratefully acknowledge that Claims 105-147 are allowed.

In the Official Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1 to 9, 11 to 15, 17 to 21, 23 to 31, 33 to 37, 39 to 43, 45 to 51, 53 to 61, 63 to 70, 72 to 75, 77 to 87, 89 to 98 and 100 to 103 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,581,243 to Ouellette et al. (“Ouellette”). The Examiner kindly indicated that Claims 10, 16, 22, 32, 38, 44, 52, 62, 71, 76, 88, 99 and 104 contain allowable subject matter.

Therefore, while specifically traversing the art rejections, and preserving Applicant’s right to file a continuation application to pursue the broad but patentable claims, Applicant has incorporated subject matter from the allowable claims into Independent claims 1, 23, 45, 53, 63, 84 and 91 solely to secure immediate allowance thereof.

With respect to the allowed claims, the Examiner did not comment on claims 148 and 149. As these claims are dependent on allowed independent claim 145, Applicant respectfully submits that they should also be allowed.

In view of the above, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3500. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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